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DGReview

Single Azithromycin Dose Provides Equal Drug Exposure To Three Divided Doses A DGReview of : "Serum and WBC pharmacokinetics of 1500 mg of azithromycin when given either as a single dose or over a 3 day period in healthy volunteers"

Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Online

01/18/2001

By Mark Greener

A single 1.5 g dose of the antibiotic, azithromycin, appears to be as effective as three day's treatment in patients with atypical pneumonia.

Azithromycin shows a long half-life; as a result, researchers assessed the efficacy of short azithromycin regimens in respiratory tract infections.

In previous studies, using three and five day regimens to administer a total azithromycin dose of 1.5 g provided at least equal serum and white blood cell exposures as well as comparable efficacy. Other trials are underway in adults and children.

Against this background, researchers from Bassett Healthcare, Cooperstown, New York, United States, compared serum and white blood cell exposures when azithromycin was administered as either a single 1.5 g dose or as 500 mg daily over three days. Volunteers received both regimens in a randomised order.

The researchers enrolled 12 healthy adults and collected serum and white blood cell samples at baseline and for ten days following the first dose. All the subjects completed treatment and experienced minimal side effects.

The authors reported numerically higher average serum exposure with the single dose compared to three days dosing: 13.1 and 11.2 mgoh/L, respectively. They also commented that white blood cell exposures were much higher than those in serum.

However, the difference between the two regimens' serum and white blood cell exposures did not reach statistical significance in either case.

The authors concluded that a single, 1.5 g dose of oral azithromycin for respiratory tract infections should provide exposures that are at least equal to approved regimens.

Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy
2001:47,61-66.

"Serum and WBC pharmacokinetics of 1500 mg of azithromycin when given either as a single dose or over a 3 day period in healthy volunteers"

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